Many who wiſh to be informed of the indigenous plants of our country have neither leiſure nor inclination to purſue the ſcience of Botany in its more extenſive track, to purchaſe and peruſe the numerous volumes, and to acquire an underſtanding of the more numerous terms now neceſſary to be read and underſtood, much leſs to undergo the expence and bodily fatigue which muſt be ſuſtained before we acquire an original, perſonal knowledge of the objects in view, without which we never arrive at the ſummit of the arduous and pleaſing purſuit.

To make the little that I have written as plain as poſſible to the apprehenſion of every one, I have avoided as much as I could, the uſe of the more difficult botanic terms.

In deſcribing the ferns, inſtead of the latin terms, *frons*, *pinnæ*, *pinnulæ*, *&c.* I make uſe of the more familiar ones, *firſt leaves*, *ſecond leaves*, *third leaves*, and *lobes*; and, to render my meaning ſtill plainer, I have illuſtrated it with figures, *ſee Table* 1, where

Fig. 1 is a firſt leaf complete, aaaaa the rib.

Fig. 2 a ſecond leaf cut off at b.

Fig. 3 a third leaf cut off at c.

Fig. 4 the lobes.

The fructifications, which are generally placed on the back of the lobes, I have called *ſeed-veſſels*, as the moſt plain and expreſſive